UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AT LOS ANGELES

FIGURES OF EARTH

3 6 8 0 9

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

JURGEN

Illustrated by Frank C. Papé. Limited Edition.

THE BODLEY HEAD

FIGURES OF EARTH

A Comedy of Appearances

By JAMES BRANCH CABELL

"Cascun se mir el jove Manuel,
Qu'era del mon lo plus valens dels pros."

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TO SIX MOST GALLANT CHAMPIONS IS DEDICATED THIS HISTORY OF A CHAMPION: LESS TO REPAY THAN TO ACKNOWLEDGE LARGE DEBTS TO EACH OF THEM, COLLECTIVELY AT OUTSET, AS THEREAFTER SERIATIM.

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A FOREWORD

" Amoto quæramus seria ludo "

TO
SINCLAIR LEWIS

A FOREWORD

My dear Lewis:

To you (whom I take to be as familiar with the Manuelian cycle of romance as is any person now alive) it has for some while appeared, I know, a not uncurious circumstance that in the *Key to the Popular Tales of Poictesme* there should have been included so little directly relative to Manuel himself. No reader of the *Popular Tales* (as I recall your saying at the Alum when we talked over, among so many other matters, this monumental book) can fail to note that always Dom Manuel looms obscurely in the background, somewhat as do King Arthur and white-bearded Charlemagne in their several cycles, dispensing justice and bestowing rewards, and generally arranging the future, for the survivors of the outcome of stories which more intimately concern themselves with Anavalt and Coth and Holden, or even with Sclaug and Thragnar, than with the liege-lord of Poictesme. Except in the old sixteenth-century chap-book (unknown to you, I believe, and never reprinted since 1822, and not even modernized into any cognizable spelling), there seems to have been nowhere an English rendering of the legends in which Dom Manuel is really the main figure.

Well, this book attempts to supply that desideratum, and is, so far as the writer is aware, the one fairly complete epitome in modern English of the